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STUDYING SPRINGSTEEN 101 {page 17}

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Tuesday, June 5, 2012

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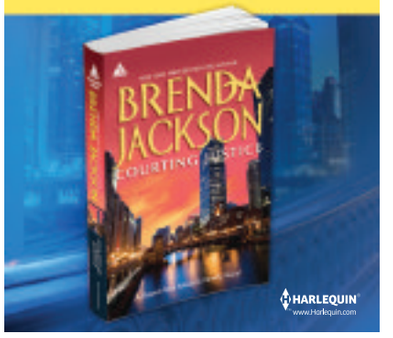

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Devils lose

▶ Devils captain Zach Parise skates off the ice after Anze Kopitar scored the second goal of the evening for the Kings.

The Devils were blown out, 4-0, in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final and fell behind in the series, 0-3. The Kings scored twice in second period and were a perfect 2-for-2 on the power play in the third. Game 4 is tomorrow night in Los Angeles. New Jersey has never been swept in the Stanley Cup final in their history. {page 24}

Caught with pot? Cuomo wants fines, not arrests

Gov. proposes change to state law to make low-level marijuana possession a violation, not a crime Law will keep thousands out of jail, supporters say {page 02}

News

Lapse of luxury: US millionaires on the decline

Report shows Asian nations top United States in producing new 'one percenters' We still have the most, though {page 12}

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Election. Campaign stop

▶ Fans greeted President Barack Obama after Air Force One touched down at JFK airport last night.

JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

Obama comes back to rake in New York's cash

President Barack Obama was in town for a star-studded trio of campaign fundraisers last night. The president attended fundraising events with former President Bill Clinton. The first was a small private event held at the Upper East Side mansion of billionaire wealth management adviser Marc Lasry, followed by a gala at the Waldorf Astoria, where Jon Bon Jovi performed. Tickets for the Lasry reception cost $40,000 per person and tickets for the gala started at $2,500 per person. Later, Obama was due at the New Amsterdam Theater in Harlem, where tickets started at $250. METRO/CB

Man, 25, killed in Harlem

HARLEM. A 25-year-old man was shot and killed Sunday in Harlem. According to police, Akeem Green, 25, was shot on a basketball court at West 129th Street and Seventh Avenue. Police said they responded to a 911 call just before 5 p.m. and found four people shot. Green was shot once in the back and pronounced dead at the hospital. METRO/AB

Man sentenced after cop injury

BROOKLYN. A man was sentenced to prison yesterday after his actions led to a cop being hit. Prosecutors say Mario Koruni was driving a stolen car in 2010 when he was pulled over by officer Carlos Olmedo, who was then seriously injured when he was hit by a motorcycle. METRO/AB

In the news

Man stabbed in Union Square

A man was stabbed in Union Square yesterday afternoon, police confirmed to Metro. The stabbing occurred at East 14th Street and Union Square East, just after 2:30 p.m. When police got there, they found a 37-year-old man stabbed in the face. He was rushed to Bellevue Hospital, said police, where he remains in stable condition. Police combed the area for the suspect, who fled. METRO/CB

In the news

Tanning mom red in the face

New Jersey's "tan mom" is not happy with all the attention on her, especially not in doll form. Patricia Krentcil was upset with a new action figure doll in her likeness shown to her Monday, according to the Daily News. She threatened a lawsuit, saying, "That doesn't look like me!" The doll has an orange complexion. METRO/AB

Gov. Cuomo would like to decriminalize marijuana

Cuomo wants to make having small amounts of pot a violation, and not a crime It could mean the difference between a fine and a night in jail

If Gov. Andrew Cuomo has his way, those caught carrying a small amount of marijuana will no longer necessarily be sent to jail.

Cuomo said yesterday, for the first time, that he wants to change state law to decriminalize carrying small amounts of marijuana. The legislation would mean that the penalty for visibly carrying pot would be just a ticket and would not involve being detained.

Right now, the penalty for those caught possessing 25 grams or less of marijuana is a violation that carries a maximum fine of $100. But if that marijuana is in public view — whether you're smoking it or emptying your pockets at the behest of a cop — that is a misdemeanor crime. Those caught are arrested and taken to jail.

Last year, 50,000 people were arrested on low-level marijuana arrests. Most of those people would no longer be arrested under Cuomo's suggestion, unless that person was caught actively smoking marijuana, which would still be a misdemeanor.

Critics say people are stopped and frisked by the police, who ask them to empty their pockets, putting the marijuana into public view and ensnaring them in violation of the law. Then, they say, tens of thousands are unfairly arrested.

"Not only do you lose your job, it affects your whole life." ALFREDO CARRASQUILLO

An arrest for small amounts of marijuana can lead to a criminal record. Job applicants often must also include arrests on most applications.

Cuomo's law change proposal would be the first time New York officially categorizes this as not a crime. Mayor Michael Bloomberg said yesterday he backs the change.

ALISON BOWEN
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A life nearly derailed

NEW YORK. Alfredo Carrasquillo, 28, a Yonkers resident and community organizer with Vocal New York, an activist group focusing on incarceration and drug use, said he lost a job after he missed four days of work following a marijuana arrest.

"I had to go back on welfare," he said. "It forced me to be back on a lower position when I worked so hard."

This wasn't the first time cops had taken him in after finding marijuana during a stop-and-frisk incident, he said. Another time, he spent 24 hours in jail when he was stopped on the way to a friend's house. Many he shared a cell with were in on similar charges, he said. "I've been arrested with individuals who literally were crying because they were going to lose their jobs." METRO/AB

600K

More than 600,000 people were arrested for marijuana possession in the last 15 years, according to the Drug Policy Alliance.

50K

More than 50,000 people were arrested for low-level marijuana possession in 2011, according to the Drug Policy Alliance.

What now?

NEW YORK. Cuomo doesn't have a lot of time to change state law. Legislation would have to pass the state Assembly and Senate before the legislative session comes to a close at the end of this month.

Despite yesterday's announcement, earlier this year Cuomo said he would not push for medical marijuana to be legalized. "I think the risks outweigh the benefits at this point," he said in April. METRO/AB

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[1] Reference - Epidural steroid injections procedures. Medscape reference retrieved July 26th 2011. [2] Results may vary. Prior results cannot guarantee future outcomes. Copyright © 2012 MY Wellness Solutions, Inc.

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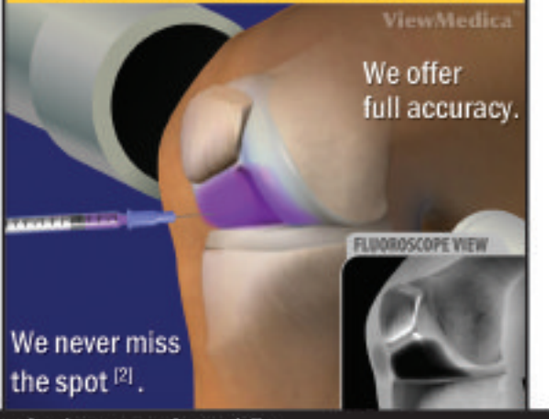

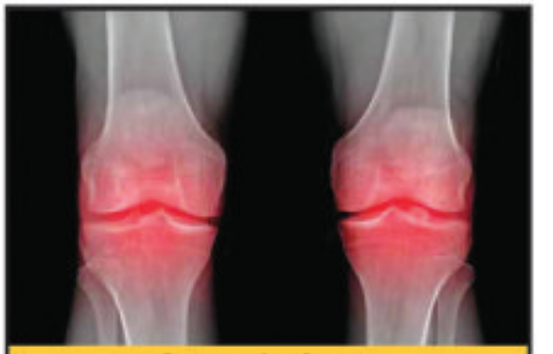

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Bill Maher now owns a piece of the NY Mets

Host of HBO's 'Real Time' jokes he's used to losing money, anyway Been a fan of team since 6 years old

Comedian and talk show host Bill Maher purchased a minority ownership stake in the New York Mets Major League Baseball team, according to media reports.

Maher revealed that he bought a minority share of the team months ago, but gave no details of the deal, the reports said.

"I just thought it would be a great place, especially after I've seen some of the ways money can disappear in recent years. I had my money in Lehman Brothers in 2008," The New York Times quoted Maher as saying.

The Mets, who live in the shadow of the much more successful New York Yankees, have struggled in recent years.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Maher

"I have really never wavered for my love for this team."
BILL MAHER

Shares of the cash-strapped club were put up for sale after it suffered financial setbacks in the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme scandal.

In March, Fred Wilpon and Saul Katz, owners of the Mets, agreed to pay $162 million to settle a lawsuit by the trustee seeking money for the victims of Madoff's fraud.

In a video clip that the Mets published on its Twitter page, the comedian said he became a Mets fan when he was 6 and "I have really never wavered for my love for this team."

On Friday, Mets pitcher Johan Santana threw the first no-hitter ever for the Mets as he blanked the visiting World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals 8-0 at Citi Field. **REUTERS**

Queens Zoo. Roadrunner

▶ Roadrunners can reach an impressive running speed of up to 25 miles per hour.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Better look out, Wile E. Coyote

Catch him while you can – the Wildlife Conservation Society's Queens Zoo is now home to a roadrunner, known for having the fastest running speed of any flighted bird. Roadrunners don't exactly go "Beep, beep!" but can make a variety of sounds, like cooing and rattle calls. **METRO/CB**

A long wait for soda ban

NEW YORK. It will be at least nine months before Mayor Michael Bloomberg is able to implement his controversial ban on soft drinks larger than 16 ounces.

Bloomberg will submit his proposal on June 12 to the New York City Board of Health, which will then have a three-month comment period before voting on it. If approved, the ban would take effect six months later and be enforced by the city's restaurant inspectors. Restaurant owners would have nine months after adoption of the ban before facing fines of $200 for violations, Bloomberg said.

And the soda industry is likely to spend a lot of money fighting the proposal, said Tom Pirko of Bevmark Consulting. "This is a challenge to the basic premise of their business plan, all predicated on selling sweet drinks in the largest volumes possible," he said. **REUTERS**

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Photo by Joan Marcus.

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News in pictures

Falcon chicks nest on top of NYC bridges

Bet they don't have to pay a toll! Seven new peregrine falcon chicks are now living in nesting boxes high atop three MTA bridges — Marine Parkway, the Throgs Neck and the Verrazano-Narrows. The MTA started the falcon nesting program in 1983, after the birds were nearly wiped out in the 1960s due to pesticides in their food supply. METRO/CB

1: The chicks are banded by wildlife specialist Chris Nadareski.
2: The chicks hatched in May.
3: The MTA installs the nesting boxes, and allows DEP agents to check the eggs and band the birds so they can be tracked.
4: A baby chick sits wrapped in a towel 360 feet above the Throgs Neck Bridge in the Bronx.
5: An adult peregrine falcon soars above the Throgs Neck Bridge.

PHOTOS: MTA

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Cocaine bust in Queens home

New York state police bring down alleged drug traffickers Cops: Eight kilos of cocaine and $70K in drug money seized from apartment in Jackson Heights

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

More than 18 pounds of cocaine were found stashed in a Queens home, said law enforcement.

After weeks of keeping surveillance on a house in Jackson Heights, Queens, law enforcement officials announced yesterday they found more than 18 pounds of cocaine hidden in the home.

New York City's special narcotics prosecutor, Bridget Brennan, along with the state police, seized more than 8 kilograms from the home, as well as nearly $70,000 in cash.

The bulk of the drugs were found hidden inside a dresser outfitted with a secret compartment, as well as an oven, said police.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

Two kilograms of cocaine were in this oven, said cops.

State police investigators were keeping watch on a building on 81st Street when, on May 14, they observed a man there, Alvaro Montoya, haul a large plastic garbage bag out of the building. He placed it in a red Chevy SUV and drove off.

Investigators followed Montoya, 51, and searched his vehicle. Inside, they found evidence of cocaine hidden there, they said.

Shortly after that, police stopped Wilmar Florez-Jimenez, 30, coming out of the same address.

They recovered a small quantity of cocaine from him, as well as keys to a ground-level apartment at the home. Investigators searched the apartment and found more than six kilograms of cocaine hidden inside a specially designed dresser that had a false back.

The search uncovered another two kilograms of the stimulant inside an oven and $68,000 in cash in the bedroom, police said.

Cops said they also found drug packaging equipment scattered throughout the apartment, including substances used to dilute the cocaine, a digital scale, baggies, knives and razors.

Both men have been charged and were scheduled to be arraigned yesterday in Manhattan Supreme Court.

CARLY BALDWIN
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Cocaine hidden in tires

After they searched Montoya's Chevy, police said they found a garbage bag with a portion of a tire inside. Inside the tire, small towels and plastic tie wraps were glued to the underside of the tread, leading police to suspect that's where kilos of cocaine had been secured to the tire.

Police said they were familiar with the practice of hiding large quantities of cocaine inside tires, covered and concealed with towels.

On May 16, investigators returned again to the car for a more thorough search. The third seat at the rear of the vehicle had been folded down and about half a pound of cocaine was hidden underneath, they said. **METRO/CB**

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Blackwater men lose Iraq deaths appeal

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected an appeal by four Blackwater security guards who argued prosecutors made improper use of their statements to investigators in charging them with killing 14 Iraqi civilians in 2007.

The justices refused to review a ruling by a U.S. appeals court in Washington, D.C., that reinstated the criminal charges against the guards for their roles in the Baghdad shooting that outraged Iraqis.

The shooting occurred as the guards, U.S. State Department security contractors, escorted a heavily armed four-truck convoy of U.S. diplomats through the Iraqi capital. **REUTERS**

Cops arrest suspect in mutilated body mailing

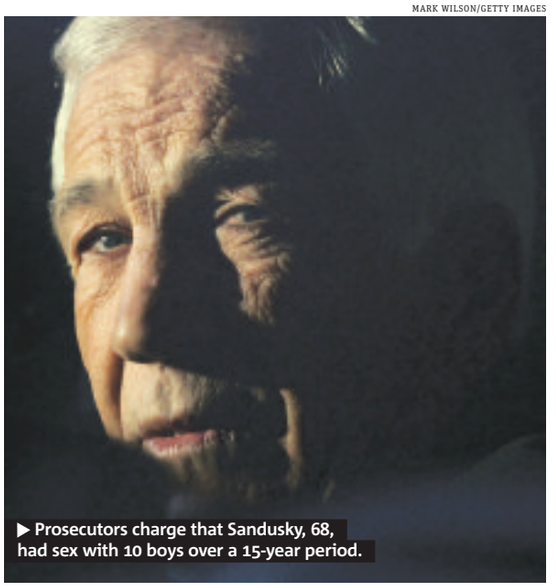
BERLIN. A Canadian man suspected of murdering and dismembering a Chinese student, then posting a video of the grisly crime online, was arrested in an Internet cafe in Berlin yesterday after an international manhunt.

Interpol had issued a "red notice," its highest type of warning, for Luka Rocco Magnotta, 29, who faces first-degree murder charges in the death of 32-year-old Jun Lin.

Magnotta, who used at least three identities and was an avid Internet user, is believed to have killed Lin with an pick axe, dismembered and defiled his body and then mailed some of the body parts to political parties in the Canadian capital, Ottawa. **REUTERS**

Sandusky victims lose right to anonymity during trial

MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Prosecutors charge that Sandusky, 68, had sex with 10 boys over a 15-year period.

Jerry Sandusky's alleged sex abuse victims will not be allowed to use fake names to hide their identities during his criminal trial, a Pennsylvania judge ruled yesterday.

Prosecutors charge that Sandusky, 68, had sex with 10 boys over a 15-year period. Four of those boys — numbers 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 — filed motions last week asking for permission to use pseudonyms when the trial begins.

But Judge John Cleland said he couldn't allow their identities to be hidden during the trial.

"Secrecy is thought to be inconsistent with the openness required to assure the public that the law is being administered fairly and applied faithfully," Cleland wrote in his order dismissing the request.

"It is argued in the motions that for an alleged victim of a sexual assault to fulfill that responsibility is so uniquely embarrassing that the person should be protected by being able to conceal his name. But why should any class of witnesses be protected? No victim of crime, after all, is spared the trauma of crime's effects — and the severity of the trauma does not necessarily mirror the nature of the crime," the judge said. **REUTERS**

"Secrecy is thought to be inconsistent with the openness required to assure the public that the law is being administered fairly and applied faithfully."
JUDGE JOHN CLELAND

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Blacks and Hispanics who applied for New York City firefighter jobs between 1999 and 2006 may be eligible for money, a firefighter job, and seniority to remedy hiring discrimination

- **A Federal Court has ruled that the City discriminated against blacks and Hispanics who took written exams to become New York City firefighters between 1999 and 2006.**
- The Court has ordered the City to pay up to **$128 million** in backpay damages to black and Hispanic victims of the City's discrimination.
- The United States Department of Justice is **NOW** collecting information from all black and Hispanic applicants who took Written Exam 7029 or Written Exam 2043 **between 1999 and 2006**. This information will help the Court decide who is eligible for money and other awards.

You must complete a claim form by June 18, 2012 to be considered for court-ordered money, a firefighter job, and seniority.

If you have not already received a claim form:

✓ **Visit www.justice.gov/fdnycase** and provide your updated contact information.
- Claim forms are available for download on the website.

✓ Call the Department of Justice at 1-800-556-1950 (select mailbox option number 7).
- Leave your full name, telephone number, and a time when you can be reached.

OR

✓ Black applicants may also be members of a Class that is eligible for additional money.
- Black applicants who were NOT hired as firefighters may call 212-627-8397, ext. 269 for more information.
- Black applicants who WERE hired as firefighters may call 212-614-6494 for more information.

Please do not contact the Court for information about this lawsuit.

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News in pictures

England joins to celebrate the monarchy

Large crowds gathered on the grand red road leading to Queen Elizabeth's sumptuous London palace yesterday for a pop concert to celebrate her 60 years on the throne. Tomorrow the queen will attend a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, lead a carriage procession through the streets of London and finally wave to the huge crowds anticipated beneath the balcony of Buckingham Palace. **REUTERS**

1: Spectators wait on the Mall facing Buckingham Palace.
2: A man is dressed in a suit of Britain's Union flag.
3: Lunch is enjoyed at a street party in Kensington.
4: Children wear masks of the Queen and Catherine.
5: Queen Elizabeth II visits Redbridge, north of London.

1: MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP/GETTYIMAGES; 2: ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP/GETTYIMAGES; 3: SAMIR HUSSEIN/GETTY IMAGES; 4: GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES; 5: ARTHUR EDWARDS/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

Prince Philip in hospital

LONDON. Britain's Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth's 90-year-old husband, was taken to hospital with a bladder infection yesterday, Buckingham Palace said in a statement. The palace said he had been taken to hospital as "a precautionary measure" and would remain under observation for a few days, meaning that he will miss the latter part of the queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. A concert is due to be held this evening at the palace on the third of four days of festivities marking the queen's 60-year reign. **REUTERS**

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Microsoft hack warning

BOSTON. Microsoft Corp warned PC users that the Flame virus that attacked systems across the Middle East infects computers by exploiting a flaw in the Windows operating system.

The company released software to protect against infections exploiting the previously undisclosed flaw.

Mike Reavey, a senior director with Microsoft's Security Response Center, said in a blog post that he feared that other hackers might be able to copy the technique to launch more widespread attacks with other types of viruses. **REUTERS**

'Rogue trader' defense: Bank knew what I did

PARIS. Ex-trader Jerome Kerviel began his appeal yesterday against a three-year prison sentence for his role in France's biggest rogue trading scandal, arguing he was not responsible for a $6.1 billion loss at banking group Societe Generale.

Kerviel hit back at SocGen over the 2010 conviction that held him responsible for massive, risky bets uncovered in 2008.

The 35-year-old trader claims his superiors knew what he was doing. SocGen denies any part in the trades. **REUTERS**

€125M

Kerviel said he was never told what his official remit was and that his desk regularly flouted its 125 million euro limit.

Report: Rich get richer

Other countries lead in creating new millionaires, group says ◗ United States still has most wealthy, however ◗ Pacific Rim a hotbed of growth

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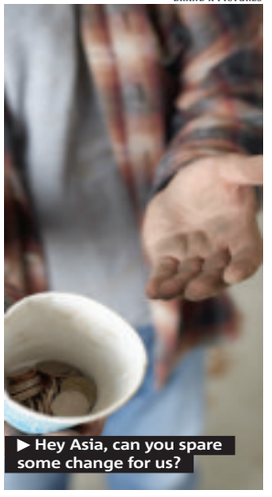

▶ Hey Asia, can you spare some change for us?

America used to be the land of plenty, but tell that to the former ranks of American millionaires, a club whose membership is dwindling in 2012. A new study shows that U.S. millionaires are in decline.

Nobody is saying that wealthy Americans are hitting the soup lines, or are lining up for jobs at McDonald's. And nobody is saying that someone worth $950,000 isn't better off than a guy flipping burgers for a living.

What is interesting is that the number of U.S. millionaire households is declining just as the ranks of millionaires overseas are swelling. Wealth, it seems, is another precious commodity being exported by the U.S. these days.

The data come from a Boston Consulting Group study. The BCG study, entitled "Global Wealth 2012: The Battle To Regain Strength," says the U.S. lost 129,000 millionaires in 2011, while total private wealth fell 0.9 percent to $38 trillion.

Quoted

"We are in a two-speed world. All of the growth is being driven by developing markets."
REPORT, BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP

Other countries are picking up the slack. Singapore, for example, has the highest density of millionaires, at 17 percent of the population. Among its elite is one very notable Facebook founder, Eduardo Saverin, who recently announced he would be giving up his U.S. citizenship altogether. The non-U.S. countries added 175,000 millionaires in 2011.

The BCG report says the Pacific Rim is a hotbed of millionaire growth. The report estimates that the rate of growth for millionaires in the region is pegged at 6 percent annually going forward.

There is some good news for the U.S.: All those hotbeds of nouveau rich are still playing catch-up to the States. The BCG report says that America still has more millionaires — 5.1 million — than any other country. Japan, at 1.6 million, and China, at 1.4 million, clock in at second and third, the study says.

CONTRIBUTED BY The Street

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Costner, Baldwin go to trial over business deal

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ In his lawsuit, actor Stephen Baldwin, left, claims Kevin Costner and a business partner duped Baldwin and a friend out of their shares of an $18 million deal for BP to buy oil-separating centrifuges.

Actors Kevin Costner and Stephen Baldwin started a real-life legal drama yesterday as jury selection began in a trial over Baldwin's claims that Costner cheated him out of his share of a multimillion dollar-deal to sell oil extractors to British Petroleum in 2010.

Jury selection took place in a New Orleans court for a federal lawsuit lodged against Costner by Baldwin and business partner, Spyridon C. Contogouris.

The suit alleges that Costner, best known for his performance in "Field of Dreams" and "The Bodyguard," cheated Baldwin and Contogouris out of their share of an $18 million dollar deal, under which BP bought 32 oil and water separation devices that were developed by a Costner-owned company.

32

The suit alleges that Costner cheated Baldwin and Contogouris out of their share of a multimillion-dollar deal under which BP bought 32 oil and water separation devices that were developed by a Costner-owned company.

The deal was struck after the Macondo well blew out in April 2010, spewing more than 4 million barrels of crude into the Gulf of Mexico in the largest accidental oil spill in history.

According to the suit, Baldwin and Contogouris claim they were not told about the deal with BP before they agreed to sell their shares in a company that had been set up to market Costner's extraction devices. As a result, they charge they were duped out of a portion of an $18 million deposit from BP for the devices.

Both actors were expected to appear in court every day of the trial. **REUTERS**

Facebook tumbles after questions on owning shares

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

NEW YORK. Facebook Inc. tumbled to a record intraday low after Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. initiated coverage with an underperforming rating and a $25 target price.

The shares fell 3 percent to $26.90 at the close in New York, the lowest price since the stock began trading at $38 on May 18. The stock has lost 29 percent since the IPO.

"It is difficult to argue for owning the stock today," said Carlos Kirjner, an analyst at Bernstein in New York, in a research report yesterday.

At the time of its initial public offering, underwriters led by Morgan Stanley set a price that valued Facebook at 107 times reported earnings in the past 12 months, more than every Standard & Poor's 500 stock except two. **BLOOMBERG**

AIG chief sees retirement age rising to 80

NEW YORK. AIG Chief Executive Officer Robert Benmosche said Europe's debt crisis shows governments worldwide must accept that people will have to work more years as life expectancies increase.

"Retirement ages will have to move to 70, 80 years old," Benmosche, who turned 68 last week, said during a weekend interview at his seaside villa in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

The crisis, now in its third year, threatens to destroy Europe's 17-nation currency union. **BLOOMBERG**

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Starstruck ... four billion years from now

The Milky Way galaxy will cease to exist as we know it ... four billion years from now. Astronomers have announced the our galaxy is on a collision course with the Andromeda galaxy. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope revealed that the two are bound under a mutual pull of gravity. Simulations from Hubble show that it will take another two billion years after the galaxies' encounter to completely merge. Eventually, the two spiral-shaped galaxies will reshape into a single, non-rotating, elliptical galaxy.

MWN

250

Thousand miles an hour is the approximate speed of the two galaxies hurtling toward each other, the same speed as it would take to travel from Earth to the moon in an hour

NASA, ESA, Z. LEVAY AND R. VAN DER MAREL (STSCI), T. HALLAS, AND A. MELLINGER

▶ Scientists say that although the galaxies will clash, stars inside each galaxy are so far apart that they will not collide with other stars. However, the stars will be thrown into different orbits around the new galactic center.

Quoted

"In the worst-case-scenario simulation, [Andromeda] slams into the Milky Way head-on, and the stars are all scattered into different orbits. The stellar populations of both galaxies are jostled, and the Milky Way loses its flattened pancake shape with most of the stars on nearly circular orbits. The galaxies' cores merge, and the stars settle into randomized orbits to create an elliptical galaxy."

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Even Celine Dion is over Celine Dion

Back in March, **Kate Winslet** admitted that she, like the rest of us, becomes physically sick upon hearing the opening chords of "Titanic" theme song "My Heart Will Go On."

"I just have to sit there, you know, kind of straight-faced with a massive internal eye roll," she told MTV News, adding that the song made her "feel like throwing up."

Now, **Celine Dion** is empathizing with her — although very diplomatically, considering the chart-topper essentially let her take a decade-long vacation from the real world and its relentless department store playlists.

"'My Heart Will Go On' gave me the opportunity to be associated with a classic that will live forever. If I just count how many times I've sung it, maybe it'll get me sick," she said on the "Today" show yesterday. "If she feels tired just hearing it, and, like, throwing up, I'm glad she was not the one singing it."

As much as we want to enjoy this, the sad, dejected echo of her signature chest thump is getting in the way.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Don't count now, Celine!

Closest thing to a win for Miss USA

While Miss America contestants have to at least pretend to care about current events, the Q&A portion of Sunday night's Miss USA contest was one step up from the "Wheel of Fortune" meet-and-greet.

So we have to hand it to Rhode Island's **Olivia Culpo**. When judge **Rob Kardashian** (yes) asked an uncharacteristically difficult question submitted via Twitter (again, yes) about transgender women competing in the pageant, she managed to answer eloquently.

"There are so many people who have a need to change for a happier life. I do accept that because I believe it's a free country," said Culpo, who later took the crown and will represent the U.S. in the Miss Universe pageant. "This is a free country, and to each their own."

Olivia Culpo

Kid Cudi cites technical difficulties

Kid Cudi was a no-show at the Roots Picnic in Philadelphia on Sunday, but he wants you to know he's not a flake — although he can't say the same for the private jet he was traveling on.

"Pilots noticed they smelled smoke in the cockpit of the plane and came back to tell us we had to make an emergency stop and land immediately," he wrote on his Tumblr, adding that it was too late by the time they landed in Vegas.

That's legitimately scary stuff, and we don't like messing with airport karma over here, so we won't do the math and figure out what time he left the West Coast for a performance in Philly. Let's just say he was going to skip the previews and popcorn.

Talking points

Today, the world is a little more fair

Brad Pitt and **Angelina Jolie** have reportedly found themselves in a bit of a stinky situation with their rented London home, as the sewers on the posh street where they are staying have been backing up, according to the Sun. It forced the famous couple to consider moving to a hotel for a break timed to the Queen's Jubilee over the weekend. "Since their drains started [backing up], the smell in and around their house has become unbearable," a source says.

Adele layered up for Grammys

The usually press-shy **Adele** sat down with **Matt Lauer** for an interview, during which she admitted that she was a bit worried about her appearance at this year's Grammy Awards. "I had three or four pairs of Spanx on that night, but I loved it," she said, laughing. "I actually had another dress made, and I ended up passed out in it. It had a corset and I was like, 'I can't wear that,' so I ended up wearing this instead."

▶ Adele

Make it stop, Miley Cyrus

Former Disney star **Miley Cyrus** is all grown up, and she can't seem to stop talking about her more mature lifestyle — including being intimate. "I think it does change you as a person a little bit, because in a way you start thinking maybe that's like what guys want from you a little bit," she says in an interview with Yahoo Philippines.

We've awakened the Lohans

A fresh feud is brewing between **Lindsay Lohan**'s parents, **Michael Lohan** and **Dina Lohan** — and it's all because Dina's participating in a new reality show, according to Radar Online. "You have no idea what she has done to Lindsay. And if she doesn't keep from pulling her crap and using Lindsay, the truth will be proven and come out," Michael Lohan tells the site.

▶ Lohan

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jimmy Fallon just wants to fit in, Jonathan Ross is enjoying the weather, Jimmy Kimmel is out of words, and Conan O'Brien is not as smart as a 6-year-old.

@jimmyfallon
Gonna hook up with a surfer gang. I need a cool nickname... Thrid? Caster? Lance?

@wossy
Another beautiful day. At this rate I'm going to run out of my trademarked scandously revealing thongs...

@jimmykimmel
bed is good

@ConanOBrien
A 6 year-old was in the National Spelling Bee Finals. She must be quite prekoshus.

Jimmy Kimmel

Best of the 2012 MTV Movie Awards

1 After accepting the MTV Generation Award from Aerosmith's **Steven Tyler** and **Joe Perry**, **Johnny Depp** and his jewelry box joined the **Black Keys** for a rendition of their hit "Gold on the Ceiling."

2 Very British, funnier than the stars he's taunting, coherent enough: **Russell Brand** is, surprisingly, hosting gold.

3 **Jennifer Aniston** went home with the "Best On-Screen Dirtbag" award for her role in "Horrible Bosses."

4 This is **Lil Niqo**. Soak up his day care thug deal while it's still cute.

5 **Kristen Stewart** almost showered, but then decided to screw it and watch "CSI" reruns. Been there, Kris.

1: KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES
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'An insane leap of faith'

Boss biographer Marc Dolan on covering a subject who is always changing
'Promise of Rock 'N' Roll' explores Springsteen as artist/political figure

Marc Dolan doesn't concern himself too much with the dirty details of Bruce Springsteen's private life. The author instead takes an unusually scholarly approach to the Boss in his new book, "Bruce Springsteen and the Promise of Rock 'N' Roll" (W.W. Norton and Company).

Dolan, a professor at John Jay College and the City University of New York, listened to more than 100 full concerts for clues to piece together the 50-year artistic and political evolution of his subject — but finishing proved a little difficult.

"I started the book before the last two chapters happened, which, looking back, is

▶ Dolan

an insane leap of faith," says Dolan. "As I was working on the drafts, the ending became a moving target."

His subject is anything but static. In the span of three years, the singer jumped from "Devils & Dust," a dark solo album, to "We Shall Overcome: The Seeger Sessions," a rollicking folk album, to "Magic" a rock album that brought back his E Street Band. Though he spent seven years on this book, with the amount of recent Boss activity, Dolan never seemed to have his "sick of sitting here trying to write this book" moment. In the past year, not only did E Street legend Clarence Clemons pass away, but Springsteen also announced his new "Wrecking Ball" album.

"The Onion, before the new album was announced, did a parody thing about how Springsteen was coming out with a science-fiction album about workers on Mars and how they've been marginalized. I posted on Facebook that, 'A) This is very funny B) For a split second I thought I had to re-write the last chapter.'"

Dolan says the book wasn't exactly an easy sell for publishers, when they learned that he would be exploring Springsteen's place in American culture, and not salacious rumors.

"I had to convince the sales staff at the press," says Dolan. "When I was writing it up, I said, [it's really] a love story between an artist and his audience. Part 1: Artist meets audience. Part 2: Artist and audience have some good times together. Part 3: Artist and audience break up, seemingly over politics, but actually over communication, which is the problem with any relationship. Part 4: They come back together with a renewed understanding of how they relate to each other."

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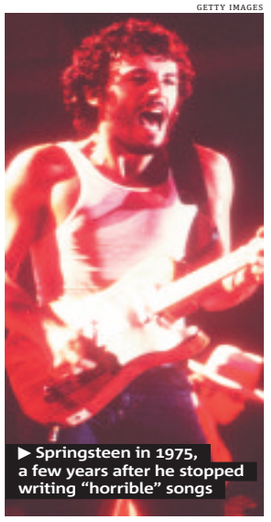
▶ Springsteen in 1975, a few years after he stopped writing "horrible" songs

The Boss ain't perfect

Throughout the nearly 500 pages of his book, Dolan treats his subject with respect, but isn't always gentle.

"There was that astonishing moment from the winter of 1971, where he really went from being a horrible songwriter to being a brilliant songwriter in the space of three months," says Dolan, bemoaning the fact that he wasn't legally allowed to quote some of these hilariously bad lyrics. To see one that he would have really liked to include in the book, visit us at www.metro.us.

If you go

▶ **Dolan gives a talk** tonight at 7 at Book Court (163 Court St., Brooklyn) and Friday at noon at the 92nd Street Y Tribeca.

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Interview: Laura Moriarty

Accompanying oneself on the journey of life

Flapper-era film actress Louise Brooks infamously couldn't be controlled, even at 15. But don't expect "The Chaperone" — in part based on Brooks' biographies — to be a "Taming of the Shrew" adaptation. Author Laura Moriarty's fictional account of Cora — a middle-aged housewife who accompanies the would-be star from Wichita, Kansas, to a New York City dance audition in 1922 — is instead a tale of self-discovery and self-preservation.

Although the pair's escape is mutually beneficial, what Cora yields from their turbulent relationship is invaluable: the courage to think rationally and see things the way they are, rather than accept what she's been taught. Sincere and engrossing, the novel has already been optioned for film by "Downton Abbey" actress Elizabeth McGovern. We talk with Moriarty about how the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Louise represents a progressive culture. As a suffragist married to a closeted gay man, Cora doesn't exactly represent the opposite. Major cultural shifts are happening now, too.

The commonalities surprise me. Cora gets very involved in birth control issues. She has to talk to a man about it, and she fears what he'll think of her. I remember thinking when writing the novel a couple of years ago that everybody uses birth control [nowadays], and it's not something that women should be punished or labeled for. Then [the issue came up] in 2012! The reason Cora can't talk to her doctor about her body — 100 years later, it's the same. And with her marriage — we have this nostalgic view of the past, like everybody was the Waltons. There were gay people then, too. How many generations had to hide who they were and make crazy arrangements to make things work? We have no idea when we look at sepia-toned family portraits. Relationships were probably more complicated than anyone knew.

Cora seeks her identity in NYC, a place where she's alone and unable to seek validation from friends, family or even Louise.

In a place where no one has any former impressions of you, you can really be whoever you are. It's liberating — but it's also frightening, because so much of our identities are rooted in how other people see us. As difficult as [Cora's] time in New York is, it's the difficulties that make her grow. I didn't want the book to be about Louise teaching Cora to be free. Cora is more complicated, and Louise turns out to be not as confident as she appears.

Do you agree with Cora that spending time with younger folks is a "big payoff for all the pain"?

I teach, so I spend a lot of time with people [ages] 19 to 25. I'm 42 — that's about the age difference between Cora and Louise. [Students] can be so maddening and rude. Louise is terrible to Cora, but it's an admission worth paying for. I've tapped into Cora's feelings by having felt similarly. It keeps you young. ● METRO/GA

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myentertainment

TV watch list

'The Glee Project'

REALITY. The first season of this surprisingly addictive talent search produced two stars for the "Glee" mothership. Tonight, 14 new kids attempt to seek admission to McKinley High with their talent and drive — and a performance in front of star Lea Michele. **Season premiere, 10 p.m., Oxygen**

'Concert for the Queen: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration with Katie Couric'

SPECIAL. Paul McCartney, Elton John and Tom Jones are among the stars — aided by 10,000 concertgoers in attendance at Buckingham Palace — celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's tenure. **9 p.m., ABC** ● **AMBER RAY**

Kendra's on top of the world

The former Playmate, now happy and balanced, showcases her party-girl ways on new show ● Could another baby be on the way?

Fun-loving Kendra Wilkinson-Baskett, who captured fans' hearts on "Girls Next Door" and "Kendra," is back — sans the drama.

The former Playboy model returns to the small screen with her new reality show, "Kendra on Top," which premieres tonight at 10 on WE tv.

"This new season is completely different from my previous shows," says Wilkinson-Baskett. "'Kendra on Top' feels like a lighter and happier show. We're finally where we want to be."

Wilkinson-Baskett and her family — husband and former NFL athlete Hank Baskett III, plus son Hank IV — faced some struggles during her last reality show on E!

"There was a gray cloud hovering over me," she says of "Kendra." "Moving around for my husband's career was hard. I couldn't be happy; I was miserable. I had to pick up and move from city to city."

But she's found her party-girl groove again now that she and her family have a home. "We're stable and we're settled with an amazing 2-year-old son. We have balance," she says.

Don't worry: Wilkinson-Baskett didn't forget the fact that her fans fell in love with her outrageous personality.

"I always kept in mind what people think of me," she says. "I'm bubbly and outspoken, and for a while I lost that. I was a victim of my husband's career. I'm back to being myself."

So what got the star out of her darkness? Patience, she says.

"You can't give up. You have to know that there's a light at the end of the tunnel. Change is hard, but you have to play the game," she adds.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS

Expanding the family?

Wilkinson-Baskett says she and her husband have begun discussing having another child.

"There are no plans yet, but in a couple of months, why not?" she says. "Hank wants baby No. 2 more than I do."

As for Little Hank? He's so good with other kids, "it's almost like he's asking for a brother or sister," she says.

Kendra Wilkinson-Baskett and hubby Hank are settled in a new home — and on a new network, WE tv.

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Addicted to arousal

Psychologist Philip Zimbardo explores the effects of video games and pervasive pornography on the social development of boys in new e-book

Teaming up with artist and psychologist Nikita Duncan, Dr. Philip Zimbardo tackled a long-standing interest in the harmful effects of video games and pornography on young men for the new TED Book, "The Demise of Guys: Why Boys Are Struggling and What We Can Do About It," which covers the threats of "arousal addiction" and fatherlessness. We spoke with Zimbardo and Duncan about their research, alarming conclusions and what parents can do.

ISTOCKPHOTO

▶ Alone and to excess: a dangerous combination

On the "enchantment" of porn and video games:
These things contribute to an arrested development. So much of what kids do happens in phases — you do one thing, you get bored with it, you move on. The problem with video games and pornography is that they're enchanting the youth, and by enchanting, we mean drawing them away unfairly from advancing through phases. These things are designed to be addictive and benefit from your addiction, and so it becomes very difficult to move forward and develop further into maturity for a lot of boys since they feel their needs — sexual and social — are being met. This is especially dangerous when these activities are done alone and to excess.

Gone, daddy, gone

"The phenomenon of boys growing up without fathers is critical," Dr. Zimbardo says. "There's a lot of research showing the devastating effects of growing up without a father — cognitive functions, health functions, social functions. That's a killer combination."

On communication breakdown:
This is an epidemic. It's not a phase that boys just go through. Living on the Internet is becoming a problem for the whole society, let alone around the world. There's an illusion of connectedness. People can play video games over the Internet with each other, but there's no one side-by-side. That means you're not learning the basics of social interaction. So, when you meet someone, you don't know how to talk to them.

On single-mothering:
Parents show love to their children differently. A mother's love is unconditional. A father's love is conditional — a father sets terms for a child to meet in order to receive approval. In a single-mother household, it is very important that the mother shift into a split role of both parents, offering love but also guidelines and discipline, to account for the lack of a male mentor present at home.

JIM FENNER
jim.fenner@metro.us

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Parenting notes

Five worst 'healthy' fast-food kid meals

- **Chick-fil-A Grilled Nuggets Kid's Meal:** Contains the same amount of cholesterol as a Big Mac.
- **McDonald's Happy Meal, Cheeseburger:** Contains more sodium than 13 orders of McDonald's kid-size fries.
- **Sonic Kids' Jr. Burger Meal:** Contains more sugar than two Twinkies.
- **Burger King Hamburger Kids Meal:** Contains almost as much cholesterol as six slices of pork bacon.
- **Denny's Build Your Own Jr. Grand Slam:** Contains almost 100 more milligrams of sodium than the government recommends children consume at breakfast.

Source: Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

'Let's Move!'... to the White House

Michelle Obama's Let's Move! campaign is all about getting families to lead healthy lifestyles — now the First Lady wants to see what you and your kids can come up with in the kitchen. Through June 17, little chefs ages 8-12 and their parents or guardians are invited to submit their best healthy lunch recipe to http://recipechallenge.epicurious.com. Winners will earn a trip to Washington, D.C., and a spot at a kids' "State Dinner" at the White House in August with Mrs. Obama. METRO/ME

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mrs. Obama wants to see what you can do in the kitchen.

Kids' health

Asthma update

About one in three kids with asthma is using a controller medication to help prevent symptoms, found a recent study in "Pediatrics." But researchers say even more kids may need it. If your child requires a rescue inhaler more than twice a week or has more than one flare-up a year that requires oral steroids, take him or her to an asthma specialist. RACHEL MORRIS

STOCKBYTE

▶ Your child may need more than a rescue inhaler for his or her asthma.

Parents

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Letters

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Mixed bag on the Catholic Church

RE: "CHURCH HYPOCRISY IS BAD FOR DEMOCRACY": Ms. Di Giacomo is correct, but I don't think that she has gone quite far enough in understanding religious institutions. Religion is big business, and it operates in its own financial best interest (as any business does). That would be fine, except that citizens — including noncommunicants — are required to subsidize those businesses with tax exemptions.
LEWIS WALSH, VIA E-MAIL

The Catholic Church is suing Obama over freedom of religion, which is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. It has nothing whatsoever to do with school vouchers. Catholics pay taxes to support schools. They don't believe "sex education" is a proper subject for public schools. Everyone has a right to believe whatever he wishes. However, you do not have a right to teach it to my kid.
ADELAIDE VERPONI, BROOKLYN

We must pay rich or they'll leave us!

RE: "WE SUBSIDIZE THE RICH, PUNISH THE POOR": Rita Varley points out in her writings that we subsidize the rich. Our country currently has the highest corporate taxes of any country in the world, which is why many corporations have moved out of the U.S. This is smart business on their part, and anyone with half a business mind would do the same thing. If you penalize these companies and the owners of these companies simply to generate funds to subsidize the lazy, they will undoubtedly take their business elsewhere — which leads to nothing more than higher unemployment in this country and inevitably more poor people. Free market is currently taking effect on green companies, but it is slow and expensive developing the technology. In order for it to be competitive, it has to happen based on the demands of the market.
JOEY WHITMOYER, VIA E-MAIL

"Whose fault is this overload of responsibilities?"

RE: "SINGLE-PARENT STUDENTS STILL FACE DIFFICULTIES": Concerning a new study showing that colleges and universities could do so much more in dealing with the problem of barriers faced by single student moms seeking a college education, I wonder who created this educational problem. It is nice to know that the author of this study herself went from being a single-mom student to being a university professor, but for the majority of moms it is not possible to sustain college studies and raising a baby simultaneously. Whose fault is this overload of responsibilities? Is it the schools of higher learning or is the individual raising a child alone? I am glad to see single moms trying to go to school with newborns, but the difficulties presented in such an effort fall on the individual. Why is society responsible when college students find it difficult to take classroom work? I wonder what role the student needs to acknowledge in how they found themselves in their predicament in the first place. Bad choices produce consequences that make life more difficult, don't they?
SAL GIARRATANI, VIA E-MAIL

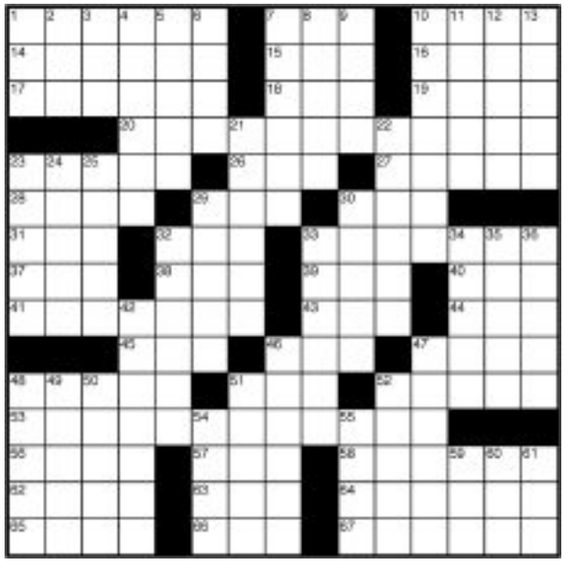
E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** By serving as a middleman and bringing two divergent factions together, you'll yield profitable results as well. Chances are it will be a special niche that only you can fill.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Strive to use your mind logically — but by the same token, don't totally detach from your intuitive faculties as well. If you employ both, you'll have a highly successful day.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Instead of worrying about things that will never happen, focus your mental faculties on achieving positive results. If you apply yourself, things will come easily to you.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Something you've been anxious to complete isn't likely to be as difficult to achieve as you think. The intervention of an accomplished ally will be a great catalyst.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Plans to which you've given considerable time should not be subjected to alterations at the last minute. Your blueprint is a good one; it will pan out quite well.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Something over which you have only nominal control could be subject to a number of unexpected changes. It might shake you up at first, but the turbulence will ultimately turn out to be constructive.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** For the first time, you'll see that you're finally making some headway in a relationship that you've been hell-bent on improving. It proves there is a light at the end of the tunnel.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Recipients will appreciate your cooperative spirit. And because you show such a concern for them, they in turn will help you accomplish something that requires teamwork.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Since you're exceptionally good at finalizing things to your satisfaction, it behooves you to focus on more significant priorities and make sure they come to fruition.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A pleasant surprise is likely to be in store if you make an effort to get to know a friendly acquaintance a little better.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** An opportunity to learn something that will be of great value in the long term will present itself. When you hear opportunity knocking, don't just stand there — get the door.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** More than a few unexpected rewards are likely to be yours because of the considerate way you treat people. If they can find a way to express their gratitude materially, they will.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Squandered
7 Clammy
10 Leftovers dish
14 Take for granted
15 Yes, in Yokohama
16 Layered cookie
17 Pageant crowns
18 Spleen
19 Watered down
20 Seismology measure (2 wds.)
23 Chewy roll
26 Bigger than a sm.
27 Like damp rocks
28 Periodic table info (2 wds.)
29 Jimmy's successor
30 Toast topper
31 Marseille Mrs.
32 Junior
33 Dogpatch denizen
Lonesome __
37 Outlaw
38 Embrace
39 Catch cold
40 __ Dawn Chong
41 Extra leaves
43 ER staffers
44 Jacket part
45 Embroider, maybe
46 Landed
47 Perched on
48 Fallen-rock debris
51 "My gal" of song
52 Good, in Granada
53 Cactus fruit (2 wds.)
56 Departed
57 "Exodus" hero
58 Attacked by Dracula
62 Groundless
63 Tonic partner
64 Funny feeling
65 __ the line (obeyed)
66 Give in the middle
67 Looked after



Down
1 Thai temple
2 Do __ __ say
3 Part of FDR's New Deal
4 Castle feature
5 PC note
6 Genealogy abbr.
7 Bleach
8 Like some seals
9 Stadium level
10 Kid's question (2 wds.)
11 Survey findings
12 Circus barkers
13 Mawkish
21 Laotian people
22 Some pizza orders
23 Fictional deer
24 Hindu's true self
25 Verdon, et al.
29 Paperboy's beat
30 Ankle or wrist
32 Piercing scream
33 Inmate's hope
34 Orange box
35 Burr or Spelling
36 Rhythm
42 Voted in
46 Yawning
47 "Northanger Abbey" novelist
48 Champagne bottle
49 Tenet
50 Biathlon weapon
51 Turkey neighbor
52 Seawater
54 Dawdles
55 Meet edge to edge
59 Modicum
60 Vane dir.
61 Actor __ Beatty

	9			8				
2		7	1	3	5			
			9			1	3	6
8	3							2
		6				9		
7							4	8
5	8	2			7			
			5	9	4	8		1
				2			6	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

6	3		5	7			9	2
	2	7			9		5	
9								3
						1		8
			8	5	7			
2		8						
3								9
	1		7			3	6	
5	7			4	6		8	1

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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destinations

No-stress vacation: Jet away to Puerto Rico

Don't worry about exchanging cash or losing cell service in this island escape Relax under palm trees with the sound of ocean waves

A breezy four-hour flight from the East Coast, Puerto Rico is the ideal escape. With resorts just a 10-minute drive from the airport, you could be stowing your carry-on in the morning and holding a cerveza or margarita in the sand by the early afternoon. The beautiful island, with colonial charm in the preserved cobblestones of Old San Juan, promises a convenient and zero-stress vacation. Adding to the no-stress factor? Puerto Rico, as a U.S. territory, doesn't require a passport, and you don't need to exchange money, give up phone service or even stress about Spanish — many people speak both languages. The small island is also easily explored by car, meaning you can traverse the island in a day. Minutes away from landing at Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, 16th-century citadels and beautiful, palm-tree bordered beaches welcome you.

Whether you stay close to San Juan or want to explore the rest of the island, here are a few spots to visit.

Get straight to the beach:

For a quick getaway, perhaps with the kids, the **Courtyard by Marriott Isla Verde Beach Resort** has everything one needs on vacation — salsa dancing at the **Picante Lobby Lounge** and the **Casino Del Sol** for parents, and ice cream and hammocks for the kids. Just a 10-minute drive from the airport, it's an incredibly easy commute to relax. Chill poolside or have dinner outside on the hotel's patio. In-house executive chef Ricky Rivera's innovative creations include meat loaf croquettes and mojito sorbet. At night, if you like, slide the balcony door open a bit to fall asleep to the waves.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

▶ Kick back at the Courtyard, minutes from the airport.

COPAMARINA

▶ The Professor and Mary Ann — and you, if you take a trip to Gilligan's Island.

For exploring the island and a rain-free vacation:

To get away from the hustle and bustle of San Juan — a city of nearly 400,000 — consider Guanica, a quaint town of 20,000 on the other side of the island. The two-hour drive itself is even relaxing, with mountains rising on both sides as you weave through the hills and rainforest.

Once you're in Guanica, don't worry about rain ruining your beach days — it's in the Guanica Dry Forest Reserve. Instead, at **Copamarina Beach Resort and Spa**'s 20 acres of beautiful landscaped grounds, relax and listen to the waves, stop in for a relaxing aromatherapy massage or try out some of their many water sports — paddle board or kayak to nearby **Gilligan's Island** (yes, named after the show). Also, they host snuba adventures — part scuba and part snorkel, you're hooked up with an oxygen tank to descend about 15 feet, where helpful guides point out — and bring above water so you can touch — starfish and other creatures.

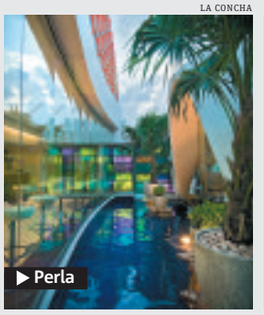
The food at Copamarina's two restaurants is also something to be savored — Puerto Rico's fried-plantain specialty, mofongo, with a fresh lobster salad or a whole fish caught in the waters nearby. For dessert, try the homemade mango ice cream. Try the **Alexandra** restaurant at night, or **Las Palmas**, an al fresco space, dining below beautifully decorated vines curved around wood, all while listening to the ocean. The shallow tides and tiki huts create a perfect place to enjoy a bucket of Coronas all day in the water.

ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

Sample the city nightlife:

If you want your vacation to stretch past afternoons on the beach, one step into **La Concha Resort** will reveal the hotel as a place to be seen. This hip hotel in the heart of San Juan's Condado neighborhood, decorated with retro furniture from lobby to room, hosts bar stools filled with well-dressed Puerto Ricans and tourists at night. The hotel's variety of restaurants include Perla, uniquely designed to seem anchored in water, and Solera, an open-air restaurant serving tapas steps away from beach chairs. During the day, lounge in front of the crashing waves. If it's raining, curl up in your room — this hotel defines "ocean-view room." Floor-to-ceiling windows greet you as you open the door, revealing a wall of ocean.

LA CONCHA



▶ Perla

Getting there

Puerto Rico's main airport is Luis Munoz Marin International Airport, offering many flights from the East Coast. Other options include Mercedita International Airport in Ponce — closer to Guanica if you're considering Copamarina. In San Juan, the bus is 75 cents, and cabs are reasonable. Most hotels can also set you up with a rental car.

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KINGS NEAR CROWN

Devils fall behind 0-3 in Stanley Cup final after blowout loss in L.A. Brodeur frustrated as series slips away Team 0-for-6 on power play

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Dustin Brown, center, celebrates as his fellow captain Zach Parise, left, skates off dejected.

What went wrong:

1 Nothing special — Call it a PSE&G power failure. The Devils' power play has been completely neutered by the Kings' penalty kill throughout the series. The Devils were 0-for-6 on the man advantage in Game 3 and are 0-for-12 in the series.

2 Lucky Kings — The Kings have been good throughout their playoff run, and last night benefitted from good fortune. Referee Dan O'Halloran emphatically pointed at the goal after Alec Martinez poked the puck under Martin Brodeur's pads for the first goal.

3 Kopi-time — The final has been a national coming out for the young L.A. Kings. Among the Kings' precocious talents is top line center Anze Kopitar.

METRO/DG

Late in the second period, Martin Brodeur stood on the Staples Center ice and vented his displeasure towards referee Dan O'Halloran.

Normally, it would be an innocuous moment that takes place literally hundreds of times over the course of a season.

In Brodeur's case, the future Hall of Famer's uncharacteristic outburst in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final was nothing less than a metaphorical act of surrender.

The Devils are on the verge of being swept in a Stanley Cup playoff series for the first time in franchise history after being routed, 4-0, by the Kings last night. The Devils trail the best-of-7 series three games to none. Game 4 is tomorrow night at Staples Center.

Alec Martinez, Anze Kopitar, Jeff Carter and Justin Williams scored for the Kings. Jonathan Quick made 22 saves to record his third shutout of the Stanley Cup playoffs, tying him with Henrik Lundqvist and Mike Smith for the most in the 2012 playoffs.

Brodeur stopped 17-of-21 shots.

55 The Kings had 55 hits compared to the Devils' 32. Despite New Jersey's usually physical style, they have been outmuscled.

The Devils had opportunities to take a lead in the first period but were unable to take advantage of three power plays, including a 5-on-3 spanning 1:01.

While the Devils did not take advantage of the opportunities proffered them, the Kings buried their chances.

DENIS GORMAN
sports@metro.us

In the news

NFL suspensions

The NFL, unsurprisingly, received a favorable decision from an arbitrator in regards to several suspensions handed down by Roger Goodell for the Saints' bounty scandal.

Stephen Burbank, the arbitrator, ruled that Goodell has the full jurisdiction to hand out penalties. Of course, the NFLPA has already said they will appeal to another arbitrator, arguing the CBA doesn't allow for Goodell's suspensions.

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Umenyiora understands contract issue

Osi Umenyiora said he doesn't blame the Giants for playing hard ball with his contract since he knows Jerry Reese will eventually have to re-sign fellow defensive ends Justin Tuck and Jason Pierre-Paul.

"You're going to hamstring your franchise, so I would make the exact same decisions if I was them," Umenyiora said. "No question."

Umenyiora fired his longtime agent, Tony Agnone, right before he signed the restructured deal because Agnone "wouldn't sign off on it." He admitted that the Giants did offer him a multi-year deal, but he preferred a one-year deal so he could become a free agent after the season. Umenyiora also acknowledged that he plans to rehire Agnone.

"My agent is a great agent," he said. "In future negotiations, he is definitely going to represent me."

Umenyiora is entering his 10th season. He was selected to the Pro Bowl in 2005 and 2007. He has 69 career regular-season sacks, which is fourth on the Giants' official career list, and just 10.5 sacks behind No. 3 Leonard Marshall.

Umenyiora added he believes he has "two years" as a full-time player remaining before he's relegated to solely being a situational pass rusher.

Osi Umenyiora

METRO/TW

ANDY MARLIN/NHLI/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jeff Carter, left, and Mike Richards are happy to be reunited on a team nearing a Stanley Cup win.

Kings' Carter, Richards find new home

Life is good for Kings' center Mike Richards and winger Jeff Carter.

The former Flyers are on the cusp of winning the Cup nearly a full year after they were dealt to Columbus and Los Angeles in separate deals last June. The two players had signed extended deals with Philadelphia, believing that the franchise was going to be built around them.

But the Flyers organization decided to rebuild the team following a second-round sweep by Boston in 2011 instead.

"Well, it was obviously a tough situation for us leaving Philly. We loved it there. We loved our time. We signed long deals to potentially finish our careers there."

The Flyers agreed to a 12-year, $69 million contract with Richards in 2008, while Carter signed an 11-year, $58 million extension last season. Then the two were shipped out the day before the 2011 draft.

Carter struggled in 39 games for Columbus before being traded to Los Angeles on Feb. 23.

"It was a tough situation," Carter said. "We had a lot of thinking to do. Took a little while to get over that. It's funny how things work out. We're both in L.A. now. ... Couldn't be happier." **DENIS GORMAN**

Niese to undergo surgery during AS break

Mets lefty Jon Niese received a little good news and a little bad news yesterday after being examined following an early exit from Sunday's win.

The 25-year-old, who signed a five-year deal before the season, left the game after six innings with what was described as an irregular heartbeat. Doctors say Niese is fine to continue pitching, but will need a minor surgical procedure, likely to be done during the All-Star break in July so he won't miss any starts.

"I wouldn't miss any starts," Niese told reporters after a 5-4 loss to St. Louis yesterday. "It's an ablation; they call it. They go inside the heart and they crimp something of some sort — like the cause of it. It's like an outpatient thing that they do that it only takes like three days to recover from after that."

Niese is 4-2 with a 4.11 ERA and 61 strikeouts in 11 starts this season. **METRO**

MLB draft day

The oft-overlooked MLB first-year player draft was last night and the Mets picked at No. 12.

They selected **high school shortstop Gavin Cecchini** from Lake Charles, La., a speedy right-handed hitter.

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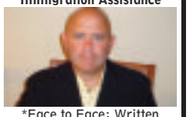

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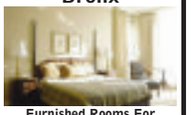
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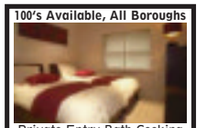
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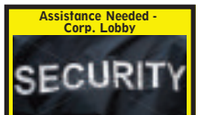
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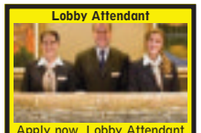
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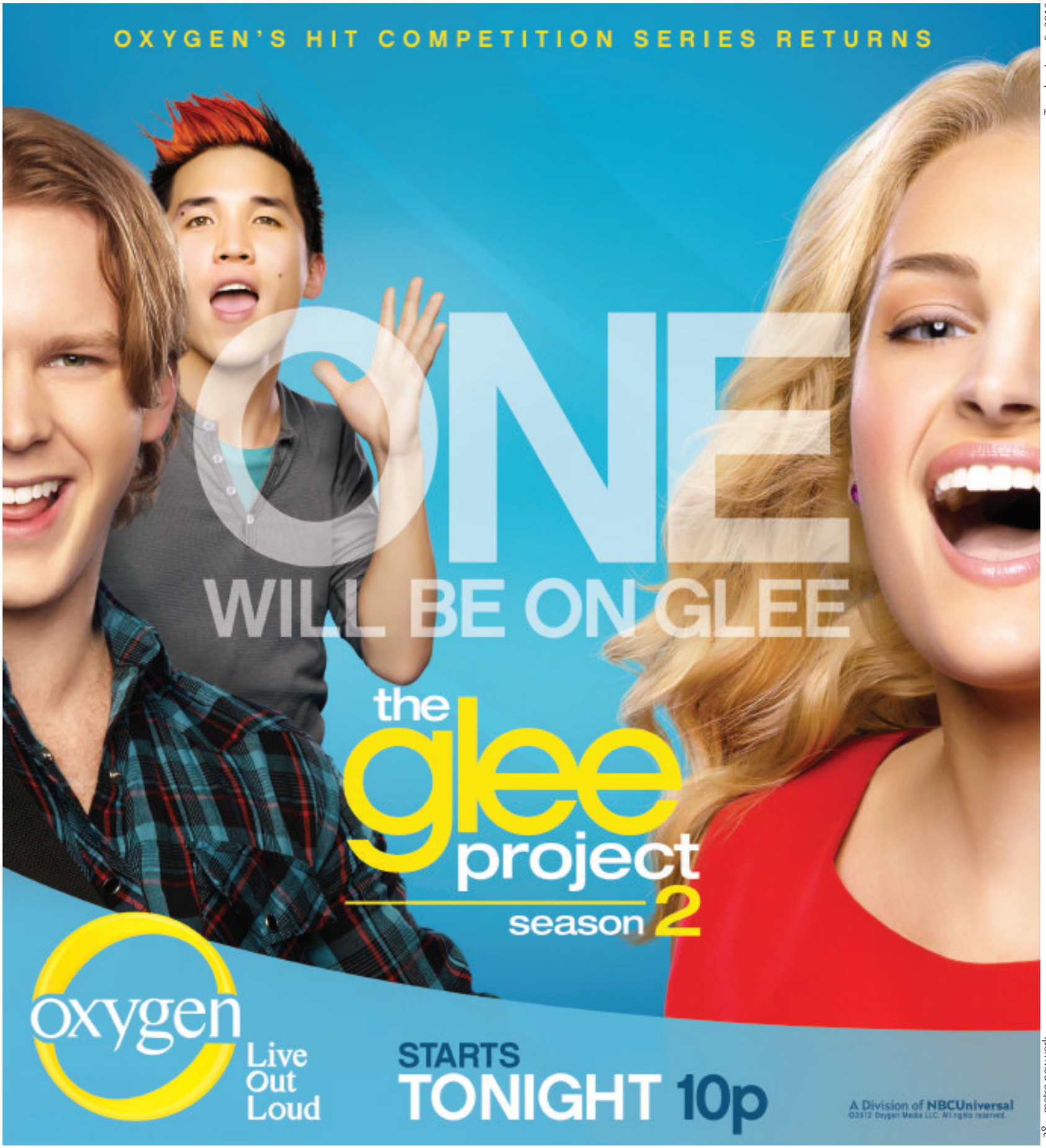
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